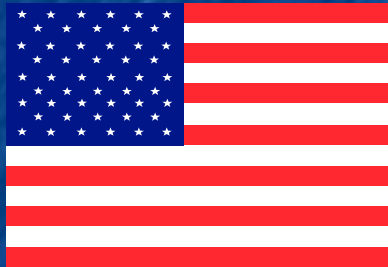


The Cold War

International clash of ideologies



What was the Cold War?

- A conflict between the world's two super-powers – the U.S. and the Soviet Union (USSR)
- Lasted from 1945 until the break up of the Soviet Union in 1991
- The two countries never directly fought each other on the battlefield
- Rather, they competed for influence over other parts of the world

Roots of the Cold War

- U.S. and Soviet Union had been allies during WWII
- Soviets suffered more than any other Allied nation at the hands of Nazi Germany
- As WWII comes to a close in 1945, U.S. and Soviets competed for influence in a rebuilding Europe, and eventually the entire world

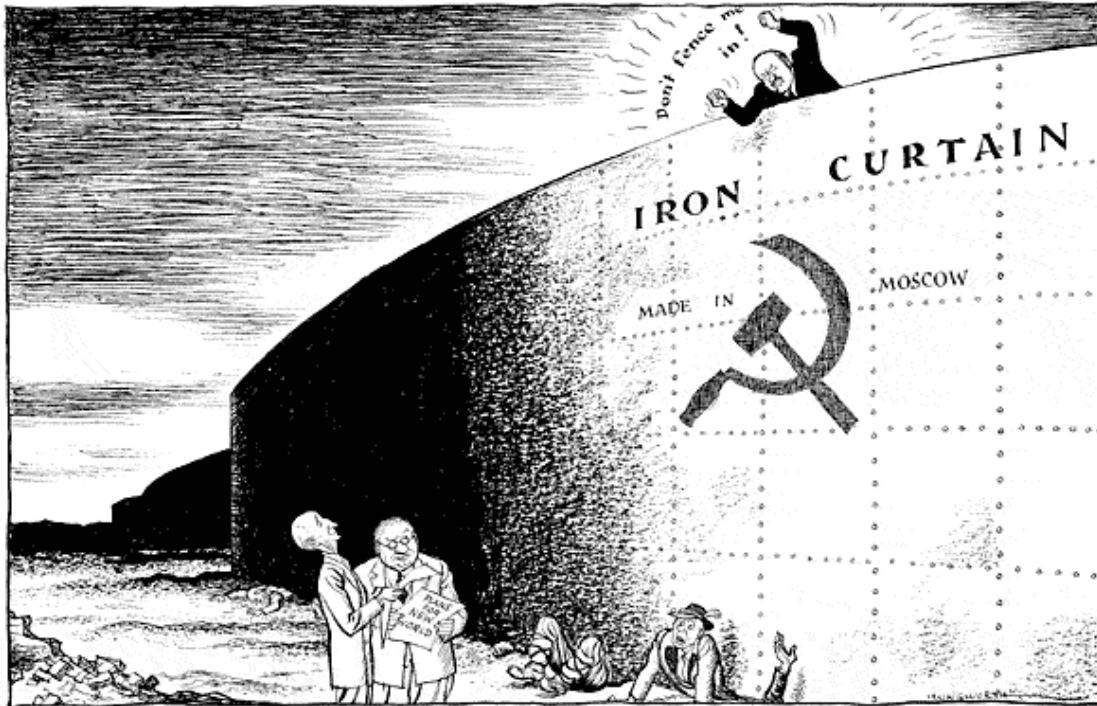


“Spheres of Influence”

- Soviet dictator Josef Stalin wanted Eastern Europe under Soviet control to act as a “buffer zone” from any future invasions
- Stalin promised to allow free elections in Poland, but later goes against this promise
- American President Truman pushed for liberal democracies in Europe, which will create new markets for American goods
- “Truman Doctrine” declared that U.S. will combat Communist influence worldwide

The "Iron Curtain"

- By 1946, Communist, Soviet-controlled governments were in place in most of central and eastern Europe, creating a strict boundary with democratic, American-influenced Western Europe



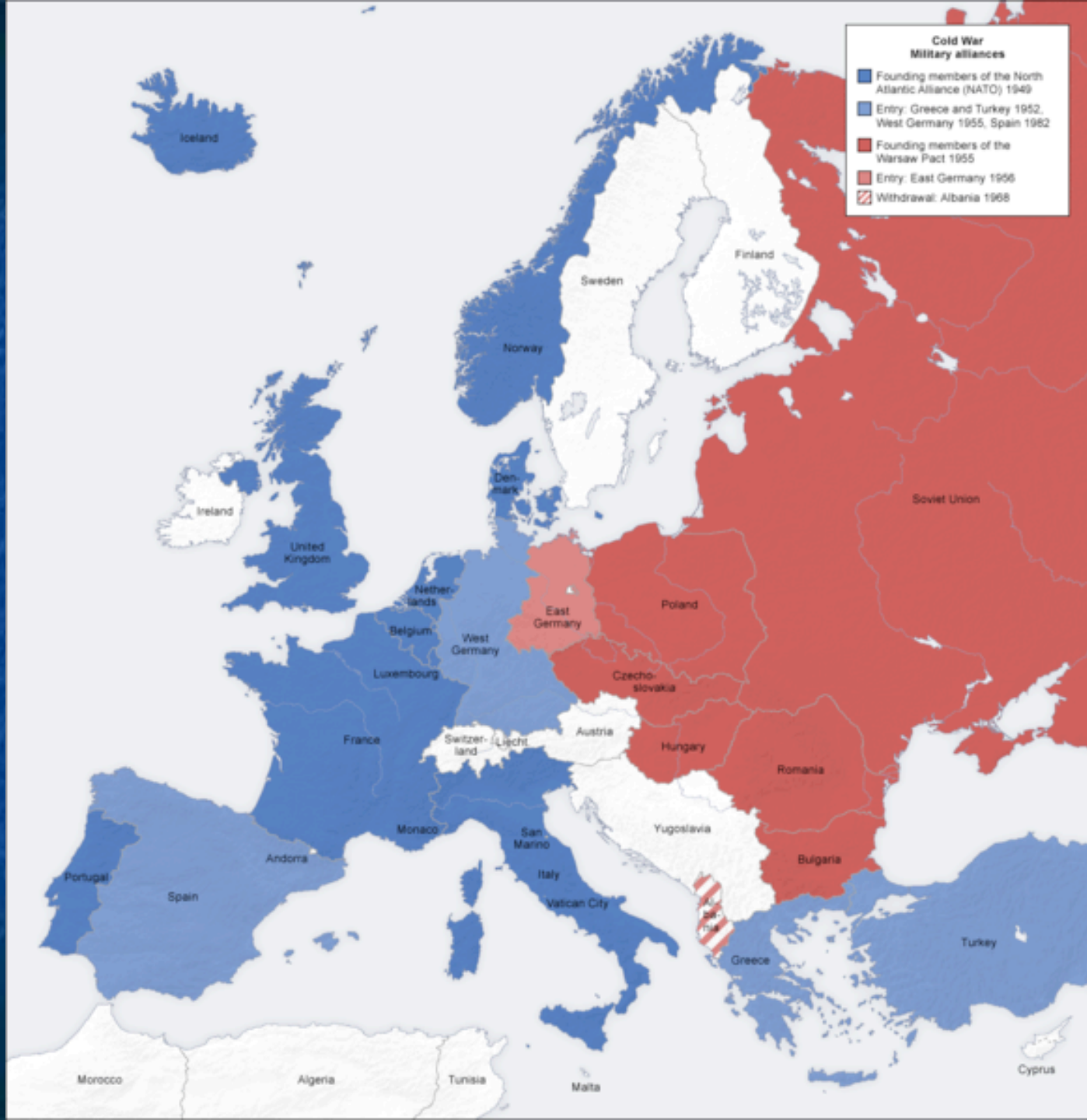
Building alliances

Western liberal democracies (US, UK, France, Canada, West Germany, and others) formed a military alliance called the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

- NATO is still around today and sends soldiers to places like Afghanistan

Communist countries form the Warsaw Pact

- Eastern European countries ruled as "satellites" of the Soviet Union



Raising the Stakes

- Expanded Soviet influence made Americans fear that their dominance may be coming to an end
 - Mao Zedong led successful Communist revolution in China (1949)
 - Soviets successfully tested atomic bomb (1949)
 - Communists North Korea invaded South Korea, retreats but withstands U.S. military conflict (1950-51)
 - Soviets sent first satellite into space – Sputnik (1957)
 - Communist East Germany government constructed Berlin Wall to prevent its citizens from escaping to the “free” West (1961)

The Berlin Wall

(Graffitied side on West, “death strip” on East)



The Arms Race



- Nuclear weapons became the biggest source of tension in the Cold War
 - The U.S. used two nuclear bombs on Japanese cities to end World War II in 1945
 - The USSR tested their first nuke in 1949
- By the 1950's, both sides had enough weapons to literally wipe out the other country
 - MAD = Mutually Assured Destruction

Cuban Missile Crisis

- The Cold War hit its most tense moment (at least within the U.S.) during the Cuban Missile Crisis in October of 1962
- Soviets planned to place missiles in Cuba (90 miles from Florida)
- After 13 tense days of negotiation with U.S. President John F. Kennedy, Soviet President Krushchev agreed to remove missiles from Cuba
- A Washington-Moscow "hotline" was established to negotiate future tensions

What was it like to live under the threat of a nuclear attack?

Duck and Cover:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?
v=IKqXu-5jw60](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKqXu-5jw60)



Tension around the world

- The U.S. never actually went to battle with the Soviets
- Rather, U.S. fought in places to prevent the spread of Soviet influence - e.g. Korea, Vietnam, Cuba, Nicaragua
- Americans were afraid of “Domino Effect” – if China falls to Communism, then Korea will fall, then Vietnam will fall, then Cambodia will fall...
- Both the U.S. and Soviets also fought “proxy wars” - supporting rival forces within countries in Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America

How did it end?

- Presidents Reagan and Premier Gorbachev began peace talks in the mid-1980's
- By late 1980's, Soviets had loosened their grip on other countries they had controlled
- Communist Party stepped out of power in 1989 after 73-year reign
- November, 1989: Removal of Berlin Wall began
- Soviet Union broke apart, divided into 15 countries in 1991



1989
West Germans
break down the
Berlin Wall
while East
German border
guards look on



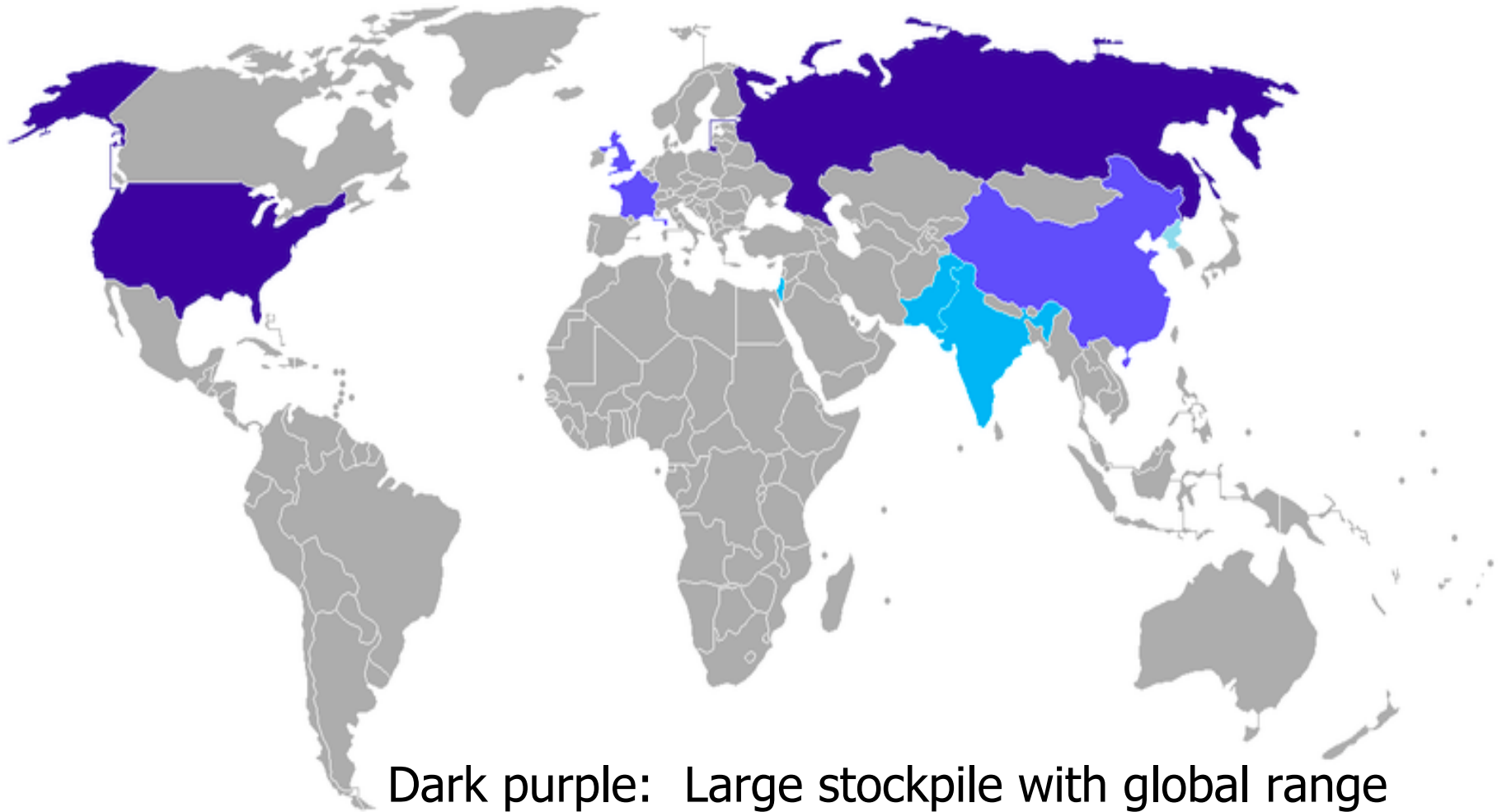
Nuclear Arms Reduction

The U.S. and the USSR signed the START treaty in 1991.

This led to both countries reducing the size of their nuclear arsenals.



Nuclear weapons today?



Dark purple: Large stockpile with global range

Medium purple: Small stockpile with global range

Pale blue: Small stockpile with regional range